

tion to detail that Leon Costermans is known for and which makes this CD such a valuable resource.

- Part B: 'New' species, new names for 'old' species and some additional species.
- References. This includes links to a variety of useful websites, ideal for the uninitiated in particular.
- Photographs. These are of a high resolution and can be enlarged greatly to allow critical comparison of key identification characteristics with specimens under investigation. This cannot be done with the photographs in a book.
- Map which includes all localities referred to in the supplement, a most useful resource.
- List of botanical authors

This CD will become as popular as the book to which it is a supplement. It is extremely user friendly, even to the 'CD-ROM novice'. The author explains how to use the CD in simple terms. The many

hyperlinks makes navigation between sections and points of interest extremely convenient. Familiarity with Acrobat Reader, which is used by the CD, makes it even more so. For example, one can simply press on the 'find' icon (the one with the binoculars) and locate any word. The read me first file gives some basic instructions on using Acrobat Reader as well as the suggestions for most effective use of the CD, so following the author's instructions is advised.

The *Supplement to Native trees and shrubs of south-eastern Australia: changes and additional species* is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in identifying plants and, at the recommended retail price of \$25.00, no-one should be without it!

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Treatment of Eucalypts in *Supplement to native trees and shrubs of south-eastern Australia*

Eucalyptus taxonomy is complex and fluid to the extent that ill-informed observers have to deal with at least three versions of eucalypts of south-eastern Australia and it is little wonder that they become confused, particularly with the many changes of names and statuses and with the regular flow of new taxa. To his credit the author has not attempted to impose his own version of the taxonomy of the eucalypts on his readers. Instead he has meticulously presented the entire range of adjustments, including concise accounts of the most recently described new taxa, and, in effect, taken a somewhat neutral position. His approach has provided an alternative perspective to the sometimes biased books and CDs which tend to peddle a particular taxonomic philosophy. His field guide offers the opportunity for the users to form their own opinions regarding the taxonomic merits of the various contentious taxa. It also provides an important level of continuity of what has now become a botanical icon.

As one who is thoroughly conversant with the recent trends in eucalyptus taxon-

omy and with the accompanying literature, I can attest that the author is accurate in his information. However, I must point out that he has not dealt adequately with the taxonomy of the contentious *Eucalyptus silvestris*. There are actually three versions of its status: that it is a species in its own right; that it is a form of *E. microcarpa*; and that it is a form of *E. odorata*. Whilst he has noted information given by the original author and in the Flora of Victoria (1997), he has not made references to more recent perspectives such as those by Nicolle (1997), *Eucalypts of South Australia*, and Ross and Walsh (2003), *A Census of The Vascular Plants of Victoria, Seventh Edition*. With regard to the latter, this is the Melbourne Herbarium's official account of Victoria's eucalypts.

A second concern has been that the use of photographs of herbarium specimens rather than line-drawings as supplements may decrease the visual quality of the information provided. The practice of using photographs of herbarium specimens has become common in recent taxonomic

papers and may well suit other taxonomists who are intimately conversant with subtle differences between taxa. However, I wonder whether this medium will suit the many amateur enthusiasts who have grown to depend on the author's excellent line-drawings of his previous texts. Only time will tell whether this strategy has been appropriate.

In my opinion, and with regard to eucalypts, the Supplement has been professionally assembled and presented logically. Over all, they enhance the text which will

make another extremely important contribution to the education of many botanical enthusiasts and naturalists in this part of Australia. I thoroughly commend it for its treatment of an extremely complex and contentious genus and have no hesitation in recommending that it becomes a worthy addition to any enthusiast's professional library.

K. Rule

Eucalyptus Taxonomist
Email:

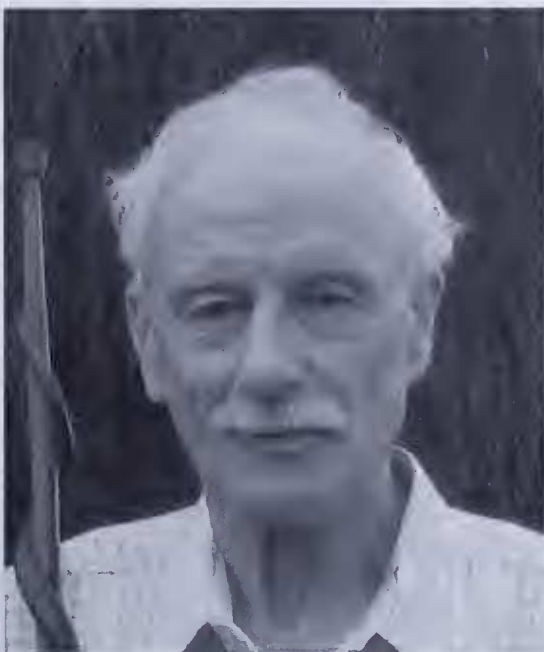
Dr John (Jack) Gordon George Douglas

Palaeobotanist and Naturalist

2 June 1929 – 6 February 2007

Jack Douglas was born at Colac, Victoria, to William and Lorna. He was the eldest child, brother to Elizabeth, Colin, Owen, and Ken. When the family moved to Melbourne he attended St Kevin's College and then the University of Melbourne, graduating in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science. He married Anne Moore, his laboratory assistant, in 1960 and gained great happiness from his family life – his wife of 46 years, their six children and 16 grandchildren.

In 1955 Jack began work with the Geological Survey of Victoria, specialising in fossil plants. Jack collected fossils extensively and was granted leave to undertake a PhD. He graduated in 1967. The thesis was published as a monograph that gained him a worldwide reputation. He published widely on his research into palaeobotany and palynology, with a record of more than 70 scientific papers. His booklet *What Fossil Plant Is That?*, published by the FNCV in 1983, remains as popular as ever. Jack also was a contributor to *Geology of Victoria*.



He was a life member of the Geological Society of Victoria.

Jack's passion for fossil plants took him into the public arena when it became clear that a plant fossil locality near Yea was in danger of being destroyed. This locality in central Victoria contains the oldest vascu-